

*1*                    CLAIMS

*2*        1. A method of inventory management comprises:  
*3*                    verifying that the articles in a grouped order belong  
to the grouped order, wherein verifying further comprises:  
*4*                    examining codes on tags associated with each  
*5*                    article in the group to determine that the article  
*6*                    belongs in the group.

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*1*        2. The method of claim 1 wherein examining further  
*2* comprises:  
*3*                    scanning the tags using a machine readable code device.

*1*        3. The method of claim 1 wherein the method conducted in a  
*2* dry cleaning establishment, and the tags have unique sequential  
*3* identification in a machine readable format and examining further  
*4* comprises:  
*5*                    scanning the unique sequential identifications.

*1*        4. The method of claim 3 wherein examining further  
*2* comprises:  
*3*                    indicating to an operator if the scanned unique  
*4* sequential identification corresponds to an item that belongs in  
*5* the group.

*1*        5. The method of claim 3 wherein examining further  
*2* comprises:  
*3*                    indicating to an operator if the scanned unique  
*4* sequential identification does not correspond to an item that  
*5* belongs in the group.

1       6.           The method of claim 3 wherein examining further  
2 comprises:

3               indicating to an operator if the scanned unique  
4 sequential identification corresponds to an item that was already  
5 scanned and that belongs in the group.

1       7.           The method of claim 3 wherein examining further  
2 comprises:

3               determining if the scanned unique sequential  
4 identification corresponds to a first item that belongs in the  
5 group.

1       8.           The method of claim 7 wherein if the first item has  
2 been determined, the method further comprises:

3               determining the total number of articles in the group  
4 from the unique sequential identification of the first item.

1       9.           The method of claim 8 wherein determining further  
2 comprises:

3               subtracting a base number from a portion of the unique  
4 sequential identification to provide the number of items in the  
5 group.

1       10.          The method of claim 9 wherein the unique sequential  
2 identification includes a group identification portion and a  
3 sequential number concatenated to the group identification  
4 portion.

1       11.          The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2               grouping articles together into the grouped order that  
3 correspond to a transaction.

1       12.       The method of claim 1 wherein examining further  
2       comprises:

3               accessing a database to retrieve the number of articles  
4       in the group; and

5               matching numbers scanned from permanent labels on the  
6       articles to either a group number or a permanent number  
7       associated with the permanent tags.

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1       13.       A computer program product residing on a computer  
2       readable media for use in a dry cleaning establishment comprises  
3       instructions for causing a computer to:

4               verify that articles in a grouped order belong in the  
5       grouped order, wherein instructions to verify further comprise  
6       instructions to:

7               examine codes on tags associated with each article  
8       in the group to determine that the article belongs in  
9       the group.

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1       14.       The computer program product of claim 13 wherein  
2       instructions to examine further comprise instructions to:  
3               scan the tags using a machine readable code device.

1       15.       The computer program product of claim 13 wherein the  
2       tags have unique sequential identification in a machine readable  
3       format and instructions to examine further comprise instructions  
4       to:

5               scan the unique sequential identifications.

1       16.       The computer program product of claim 15 wherein  
2       instructions to examine further comprise instructions to:  
3               indicate to an operator if the scanned unique  
4       sequential identification corresponds to an item that belongs in

5 the group.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein  
2 instructions to examine further comprise instructions to:  
3 indicate to an operator if the scanned unique  
4 sequential identification does not correspond to an item that  
5 belongs in the group.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein  
2 instructions to examine further comprise instructions to:  
3 indicate to an operator if the scanned unique  
4 sequential identification corresponds to an item that was already  
5 scanned and that belongs in the group.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 15 wherein  
2 instructions to examine further comprise instructions to:  
3 determine if the scanned unique sequential  
4 identification corresponds to a first item that belongs in the  
5 group.

1 20. The computer program product of claim 19 wherein if the  
2 first item has been determined, the computer program product  
3 further comprises instructions to:  
4 determine the total number of articles in the group  
5 from the unique sequential identification of the first item.

1 21. The computer program product of claim 20 wherein  
2 instructions to determine further comprise instructions to:  
3 subtract a base number from a portion of the unique  
4 sequential identification to provide the number of items in the  
5 group.

1       22.       The computer program product of claim 21 wherein the  
2 unique sequential identification includes a group identification  
3 portion and a sequential number concatenated to the group  
4 identification portion.

1       23.       The computer program product of claim 1 wherein  
2 instructions to examine further comprise instructions to:  
3               access a database to retrieve the number of articles in  
4 the group; and  
5               match numbers scanned from permanent labels on the  
6 articles to either a group number or a permanent number  
7 associated with the permanent tags.

1       24.       An apparatus for verifying inventory grouping  
2 comprises:  
3               a scanner to scan codes on labels;  
4               a computer having a computer readable storage media  
5 storing a computer program product comprises instructions for  
6 causing the computer to:  
7               verify that articles in a grouped order belong in the  
8 grouped order, wherein instructions to verify further comprise  
9 instructions to:  
10              examine codes on tags associated with each article  
11              in the group to determine that the article belongs in  
12              the group.

1       25.       The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the computer program  
2 product residing on a computer readable media is adapted for use  
3 in a dry cleaning establishment.

*Sub  
2  
3*

26. The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising:  
a printer to print tags having unique sequential  
identifications for affixing to the articles.

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